Subpoenaed Presidential Tapes Sent Back to N.Y. for New Tests

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President Nixon's subpoenaed Watergate tapes have been sent back to New York under armed guard to undergo renewed tests for any signs of tampering.

Technical experts appointed by U.S. District Court Chief Judge John J. Sirica are to study them this weekend for the first time since early January.

According to hearings on the tapes before Sirica, the Watergate grand jury's subpoena for them might have been expected to produce the recordings of nine of Mr. Nixon's conversations—along with two supplementary dictabelts and a cassete.

But of the possible total of 12, six of them either contain gaps, do not exist or cannot be found.

The missing conversations include a June 20, 1972, phone call with former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and an April 15, 1973, meeting with former White House counsel John W. Dean III. The White House has said these were never recorded. Mr. Nixon has also said he thought he dictated his recollections of the April 15 meeting with Dean onto a dictabelt, but was unable to find it.

The recordings with gaps on them include:

- The June 20, 1972, tape of a discussion of the Watergate scandal between Mr. Nixon and former White House chief of staff H. R. (Bob) Haldemn.
- A dictabelt of Mr. Nixon's recollections about his June 20, 1972, phone call with Mitchell.
- A cassette containing Mr. Nixon's recollections about a March 21, 1973, meeting at which Dean told him that hush money had been paid to Watergate defendants.

Both the March 21 cassette and the June 20 dictabelt remain in Sirica's safe, and is to be tested later, according to a spokesman for the judge. The experts are to concentrate this weekend on the reels of magnetic tape that were the main target of the grand jury subpoena.